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BOOK REVIEW

Handbook of Dialysis, 5th edition; John T. Daugirdas, Peter G. Blake, Todd S. Ing. Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2015, ISBN-13 978-1-4511-4429-1.

Dialysis is a highly specialized and rapidly developing field of nephrology. A successful dialysis program involves collaborative work between nephrologists, biochemists, engineers, nurses, dietitians, and experts in many other areas. Knowledge and best practice in this field are constantly changing, and dialysis is often perceived as the most difficult subject by medical students and nephrology trainees. Although a traditional multiauthor textbook gives an encyclopedic knowledge of the basic physiological principles and clinical details of dialysis practice, the sheer bulk of information may easily overload any nonspecialist of this field.

The *Handbook of Dialysis* by John Daugirdas, Peter Blake, and Todd Ing aims exactly to bridge the gap between the ocean of theoretical knowledge and what a practicing nephrologist or dialysis nurse needs to know. It covers every aspect of end-stage renal disease. *Handbook of Dialysis* consists of 40 chapters in basically three sections: hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and medical problems of dialysis patients. All chapters are presented in a clear and easy-to-follow format.

The first section of this book focuses on blood-based therapies. The background principles of urea kinetic modeling are elegantly reviewed. All practical aspects of dialysis prescription, troubleshooting, and patient management are authoritatively described in a cookbook approach. A list of key reference and further reading is provided at the end of each chapter, which junior doctors would find useful during their preparation for professional examination. In addition to conventional hemodialysis, there are several chapters dedicated on many alternative forms of dialysis therapy, including continuous therapy, home dialysis, hemodiafiltration, plasma exchange, sorbet dialysis, and hemoperfusion for the treatment of poisoning.

I am particularly impressed by the chapters on peritoneal dialysis. Although this mode of renal replacement therapy is less commonly used in the Western world, there has been an increasing interest in this subject as well as utilization in recent years. Similar to the first section, background principles and all practical details of dialysis prescription, troubleshooting, and patient management are described in a didactic manner. This approach is very suitable for readers who may have to take care of peritoneal dialysis patients when a nephrologist subspecialized in this area is not available.

In the last section, clinical approaches to common problems in dialysis patients are discussed. Many of the topics are related to complications of chronic kidney diseases (e.g., anemia and mineral bone disease), but it also includes important general medical conditions (e.g., management of diabetes and hypertension) as well as highly subspecialized ones (e.g., pregnancy in dialysis). In essence, this section offers a wealth of knowledge and serves as a handy reference for all frontline staff who are taking care of dialysis patients.

In summary, this book is an outstanding volume, and I am tempted to rename it *Bible of Dialysis*. I strongly recommend it to our interns, residents, junior nephrology fellows, as well as medical students who wish to know more about the real-life practice of nephrology.

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